

U.N. creating 'daunting precedent' in Somalia

NAIROBI (R) — By intervening in anarchy in Somalia, the United Nations is creating a daunting precedent, according to a senior UN official, who said the UN should concentrate on humanitarian aspects.

"In Somalia, the people have been given a chance to solve their problems but have failed. The UN intervention is correct but should concentrate on humanitarian aspects," a senior UN official said Tuesday.

Mr. Wanyande said given the precedent of intervening in Somalia, the United Nations should use the same justification to intervene militarily in Liberia and in former Yugoslavia.

Referring to statements by the U.N. secretary-general that the world body may establish a "transitional authority" in Somalia if rival warlords failed to halt their murderous reign, analysts said such a step should be a last resort.

"That should be the last resort as the action tends to be seen as a violation of a country's sovereignty," Mr. Wanyande said.

"Who does one draw the line that this sort of action should be taken? After all, the actions of the U.N. largely reflect policies of the more powerful nations in the world body. These nations could use this precedent for their own ends," said a Zimbabwe-based expert on international affairs.

The U.N. says deployment of the more than 30,000-strong U.S.-led multinational force in Somalia is aimed at ensuring that food aid reaches an estimated 1.5 million people threatened with starvation.

No-one knows what will happen when this primary task is completed but the U.S. intends to withdraw the bulk of its forces to hand over to United Nations peacekeepers.

Distribution of the aid has been all but halted by looting and fighting between Somalia's rival warlords who took over the poor country in 1991 after toppling dictator Mohamed Siad Barre.

More than 300,000 Somalis have already died and more than one million people are threatened with starvation.

Liberia, like Somalia, has been plunged into anarchy since the ouster by rebels of military strongman Samuel Doe two years ago. Former Yugoslavia is in the grip of civil war.

"The United Nations should really have long acted to bring about peace in Liberia and the former Yugoslavia. Now that it has intervened in Somalia, there will be immense pressure for it to do so and (it has to) be seen to be applying an even hand in similar situations," Mr. Wanyande said.

Foreign aid workers in Kenya said once the United Nations was able to move food to starving Somalis, an even greater task faced it: Ensuring reconstruction of the country started without delay.

"The humanitarian aspect of this operation is only a first step. The international community has to immediately begin to mobilise billions of dollars that will be needed to build Somalia's ruined infrastructure and the economy," one said.

"Discussions are currently taking place involving rich nations to see if this money can be found. But if you consider that we have been begging all along to feed the Somalis, it will be that much more difficult to raise the money."

As well as reconstruction, the international community will need to mount a costly operation to repatriate and resettle nearly a million Somali refugees.

Bombs found on convoy to north Iraq

ANKARA (R) — Six bombs were found on U.N. food trucks bound for Iraqi Kurds and the United Nations will demand an explanation from Baghdad, a U.N. official said Tuesday.

Edmond Cain, the U.N. representative in Ankara, said six bombs had been discovered Monday attached to six lorries in a 52-truck relief convoy which had just left Iraqi-controlled territory on its way to Kurdish-held northern Iraq.

One of the bombs had been placed under a driver's seat and others under front bumpers or tarpaulins. None exploded.

It was the second attack on a U.N. convoy in eight days. On Nov. 29 six bombs went off under U.N. trucks which had just completed the run from southeast Turkey to the Kurdish-held city of Erbil through Iraqi-controlled territory.

Mr. Cain said the latest incident would hold up the flow of badly-needed food and fuel for at least one day.

"We will be assessing the situation and tightening security before proceeding," he told Reuters.

Mr. Cain said his counterpart in Baghdad, Richard Foran, would formally ask the Iraqi government for an explanation.

At present, U.N. convoys are accompanied through Iraqi-held territory by U.N. civilian officials rather than U.N. guards.

Kurdish representatives based in Ankara accused the Iraqi government of planting the bombs. They said another explosive device had been found in a telephone in the governor of Erbil's office Monday and had been defused.

Western relief workers say the Iraqi government is trying to disrupt deliveries of relief supplies to the mainly Kurdish north, which it has been blockading for more than one year.

"It's another turn of the wrench," said one relief worker, who asked not to be named.

Tantawi says Iran biggest threat to Egypt's security

CAIRO (AP) — Iran's presence in Sudan is the biggest threat to Egypt's security, the Defence Ministry said in a message published Tuesday.

General Hussein Tantawi said Sudan harbours about 25 camps, established with Iran's help, to train Muslim extremists for "terrorist" acts in Egypt.

He also said that Iran was trying to spread its influence to the Red Sea by establishing a military base in eastern Sudan, which overlooks the sea.

Egypt has been accusing Iran since last August of opening "terrorist" camps in Sudan, Egypt's southern neighbour, and aiding Muslim extremists with arms and money to destabilise the Cairo government.

Geo. Tantawi was the first top official to give a number for the alleged camps.

Iran and Sudan have denied the Egyptian charges. Sudanese officials suggested that Egypt send an inspection team to ascertain that no "terrorist" training camps exist on Sudanese territory.

Gen. Tantawi spoke in a message addressed to a meeting of political researchers at Cairo University. The government-owned newspaper Al-Ahram published a summary Tuesday.

It quoted Gen. Tantawi as saying Iran "constitutes the most serious threat to Egypt. Its policies and actions run counter to Egyptian and Arab national security."

President Hosni Mubarak last month urged Iran to desist from attempts to impose its hegemony on small Arab states in the Gulf region. He said Egypt would defend these states if necessary.

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Qatar underlines Gulf security

DOHA (AP) — The emir of Qatar Tuesday underscored the importance of security in the oil-rich Gulf, a statement widely seen as indicating willingness to settle his border dispute with Saudi Arabia amicably.

"We have always believed in the indivisibility of security and stability in the Gulf region, where the solidarity of its peoples remains an undeniable fact of history," Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani said in an address to the consultative council.

The 30-member council is an appointed body with members from all leading families that the emir consults for advice. Without mentioning Saudi Arabia by name, the emir pledged to carry on striving for "fostering brotherly ties between our peoples."

Arab diplomatic sources interpreted the speech as an expression of readiness to come to terms with Saudi Arabia over the border dispute.

Two people were killed in a Sept. 30 clash on the border between Saudi Arabia and Qatar, a small peninsula nation jutting into the Gulf.

Qatar said its border post was attacked by Saudi soldiers. The Saudis said the clash involved desert bedouins — not soldiers — and actually took place inside Saudi Arabia. There was no independent account of the clash.

In protest, Qatar has boycotted ministerial meetings of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The council groups Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman in an 11-year-old collective defence and economic integration pact.

Sheikh Khalifa is expected to boycott a council summit scheduled for Dec. 21 in Abu Dhabi, largely because of his difficulties with the Saudis.

Qatar has suspended a 1965 border pact dating from the British colonial era and demanded negotiations over the border.

The Saudis have stressed adherence to the pact but called for a joint invitation to international experts to demarcate the border.

Turning to Qatar's economy, the emir alluded to large-scale projects aimed at harnessing the North Dome offshore gas field.

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Yacoub Hayati, a lawyer by profession, said he was looking forward to "shouldering the dangerous responsibility that could shape the future of Kuwait."

Three pro-government deputies won seats in the one-year committee. One member of the liberal opposition, Abdullah Al Nibari, and another opposition deputy, Yacoub Hayati, also are on the committee.

Mr. Hayati was a member of the 1985 legislature that was dissolved by the emir. Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, for sharp criticism of the government.

"I don't expect much of this committee," Abdul Latif Al Duaij, a columnist for Al Qabas, told the Associated Press. "It is rumoured that there is a deal between the Islamists and the government that promised them more Islamic laws if they go easy on the invasion file."

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Kuwaiti panel to probe Iraqi invasion

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait's first post-war parliament Tuesday elected a committee to investigate the Iraqi invasion of the emirate. It included both Islamic opposition and pro-government politicians.

The opposition-dominated legislature decided last week to form a fact-finding committee with the power of referring any case of negligence in the August 1990 invasion to the judiciary.

The decision was seen as a compromise between the legislative and executive authorities. Opposition leaders wanted an investigation committee with the power to impeach ministers and military commanders.

Investigating the government's failure to anticipate the Iraqi invasion, the lack of preparation for it and the mishandling of public money during the after the occupation were the hottest issues in the Oct. 5 parliamentary elections.

The nine-member committee includes four Islamic deputies and their allies, among them Deputy Speaker Saleh Al Fadhlah, and Ahmad Belir and Ismail Al Shatti.

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Hizbollah dismisses Obaid call

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's pro-Iranian Hizbollah (P) Monday dismissed an appeal by one of its clerics held the release of captured Israeli pilot Rami Arad. She Qassem, the group's deputy secretary-general, said in that Hizbollah cleric Sheikh Abdul Karim Obaid's "brothers in Lebanon" to release Arad was made under duress. "The talk attributed to the cleric, Sheikh Qassem, who added that it was an attempt to 'blackmail' Hizbollah. Sheikh Qassem said Hizbollah's two Israeli servicemen but not Arad, who has not been since his plane was downed over South Lebanon in 1985. In an interview broadcast Sunday on the U.S. network CBS, said about Arad: "As I understand it, we are going to be released until the other one is released which says Sheikh Obaid was involved in a 'terror' hostage-taking until his capture, regards the cleric captive and wants him to be among the last freed in a for Israeli servicemen missing in Lebanon."

French court rejects boycott comp

ORLEANS, France (R) — A French court Monday charges against a local chamber of commerce that it French law by complying with the Arab League's boycott of Israel. The charges had been drawn up against the commerce of the Loiret department (region), south and of which Orleans is the main city, on a complaint by one of France's main anti-racist organisations. The documents issued by the chamber of commerce to working with Arab countries and testifying the connections with Israel, or people residing there, violate law banning economic discrimination on racial, ethnic grounds. The court dismissed the charges on grounds there were no identified victims in the case that it was Quentin, LICRA's lawyer, said the organisation would verdict. The Damascus-based Arab Boycott Office res national firms dealing with the Arab World to prove it ties with Israel.

Gunmen kill three Turkish policemen

ANKARA (R) — Gunmen killed three policemen and other people in an attack on a bus carrying police officers families in the Mediterranean city of Antalya, staff Tuesday. There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Monday attack but similar assaults on police in other been carried out by the Dev-Sol (Revolutionary Left) separate incidents, Turkey's separatist Kurds killed six attacks in southeastern Turkey, security sources said. Including a woman and a child, were killed and 12 others when rebels from the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) minibuses in Sirnak province and sprayed the passengers after forcing them out. PKK rebels killed two employees educational department in Hazzo town after abducting a bus on Sunday. The bodies of the two found on Monday. More than 5,200 people have died since 1984 in the PKK's armed fight for an independent region.

Iran rejects U.N. human rights critic

NICOSIA (R) — Iran Monday denounced U.N. human rights record as interference in its affairs and said laws were unchangeable. The head of Iran's judiciary, Mohammad Yazdi, said a resolution passed by the U.N. on social and humanitarian issues on Friday was "biased." Passing "this resolution is a sort of interference country's sovereignty," he added, in

Premier surveys equipment for the winter Government backs Arab Orthodox Community

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker today visited the Ministry of Public Works workshops where he inspected new machinery and equipment to be used in snow clearing operations in the coming winter.

Mr. Zeid was briefed about the functions of the new equipment and the department's readiness to deal with severe weather conditions. Officials at the workshops said the equipment will be distributed to various public works departments throughout the kingdom.



Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker in a demonstration Tuesday of a new snow clearing vehicle (Petra photo)

The prime minister expressed confidence with the services rendered by the public works ministry and the great role it plays in dealing with winter situations.

Mr. Zeid said the ministry had drawn up a comprehensive plan for dealing with winter weather conditions during this winter season. He pointed out that the ministry, in preparation for the winter season, has bought new equipment at a cost of JD 1,353,379, including complete units to remove snow, with a capacity of 10 tonnes per hour. The new equipment can open a two metre road of a width of 2.5

metres every hour, Mr. Srour said. He also said the ministry bought snow sweepers, which can be fitted on the ministry's vehicles. These sweepers will be distributed to various public works departments throughout Jordan.

The minister also said that his ministry has adopted a wireless service to enhance the efficiency of its staff and improve the performance of the public works

formation of the public works cadres. The new system includes 90 wireless telecommunication sets to be fitted on cars and other vehicles, as well as 30 sets carried by hand. The ministry's preparations also include the establishment of operation rooms at the ministry and the various public works departments. The minister pointed out that 44 working

By Aileen Bannayan and Elia Nasrallah

AMMAN — The Arab Orthodox community in Jordan and Palestine Tuesday won the backing of the Jordanian government in its drive to safeguard holy places and Orthodox estate in Jerusalem and the other parts of the occupied Arab lands.

"I bless your efforts which aim at protecting these holy places and estates in the face of attempts to sell and lease these lands and I voice the Jordanian government's support for your blessed endeavours to enhance the Arab Orthodox community's steadfastness in the face of hostile designs," said Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker in a message to the community's fifth general conference, which was held at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) in Amman Tuesday.

The prime minister wished the conference success in its efforts. Similar message of support came from Palestine President Yasser Arafat, who urged the Christian community to unite its ranks in the face of the Israeli drive to Judaize Arab territory.

Speakers at the one-day conference accused the Greek Orthodox leadership of selling church estate to the Israelis and urged the Arab community to unite their ranks to deal with the situation.

committee of the Orthodox community in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

"This is very serious indeed. This practice should stop immediately. It is an act of treachery against the Palestinian homeland," said Mr. Toubasi in his working paper reviewed by 150 delegates taking part in the conference.

He said that church property should be utilised for the benefit of the Arab Orthodox community.

"The Greek patriarchate has recently sold whole districts, including Rahavia district in West Jerusalem and earlier sold the Al Musallabah district where the Israeli parliament (Knesset) was erected," Mr. Toubasi said.

He said that the Greeks also sold church land that was later transformed into a world Zionist centre and conducted land exchange transactions with the Israelis who had seized the St. John Monastery.

"Furthermore, the Greek church leadership allowed the Israeli authorities to seize part of the estate around the Mar Elias Monastery near Jerusalem which the Israelis used to open roads and to set up Jewish settlements," he said.

According to Mr. Toubasi the Greek church leadership also leased a community cemetery in Jaffa to an Israeli firm that later used it to build homes for the new Jewish immigrants.

Reviewing the history of the Christian Community in Palestine, Mr. Toubasi noted that the

holy places in Palestine, the church and Orthodox community estate had been always under the control of the Arab church leaders until the start of the Ottoman rule which allowed Greek priests and monks to have the upper hand.

Mr. Toubasi said the state of affairs continued throughout the Ottoman rule.

"It was only under the British mandate in Palestine that the Arab community rose in force to try to assume their own affairs and take over of the church and church estate, but to no avail," he said.

It was under the Jordanian government, during the unity of the two banks in 1958, that the Jordanian Parliament passed a law granting rights to the Arab community in handling their own affairs through membership in a church council estate in Palestine. Under the Israeli occupation rule, he said, the Greek church leadership ignored rights of the Arab community with the result that "we now find Arab Orthodox schools and other centres in dilapidated conditions with the level of education deterioration to a dangerous level."

The one day conference, held under the slogan "Towards a Comprehensive Orthodox Renaissance," addressed a host of issues related to the means of protecting Orthodox real estate and holy shrines in the occupied territories in view of recent illegal leasing or selling of the church property by the Greek Orthodox

Church.

Working papers at the conference dealt with means of safeguarding holy places, the creation of a special fund to promote the cause of the Arab Orthodox Community and amendments to Jordanian laws and regulations regarding the Arab Orthodox Community in Jordan and occupied Palestine.

Dr. Raouf Abu Jaber, chairman of the Arab Orthodox Society in Jordan and Arab Jerusalem Governor Rawhi Al Khatib stressed the importance of safeguarding church property as it has been preserved and guarded ever since the days of Caliph Omar Ben Al Khatab, who gave the Christian community guarantees of safeguarding their religious sites and shrines.

According to Dr. Abu Jaber, the Arab Orthodox Community numbers around 200,000, but lacks coordination with the Greek patriarch who administers church property.

"We think the issues pertaining to Arab rights and interests should be closely coordinated to benefit all," he said. The Arab Orthodox community has had a leading role in the community life of Jordan and Palestine throughout the ages. We seek to preserve that role.

Mr. Toubasi also underlined the importance of safeguarding the centuries-old heritage and property of the Orthodox church, and called for close coordination among all concerned parties so that serious work could be undertaken in this regard.

Jordan presents water needs London conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan retook part in an international conference on water resources in London. Delegates presented their views on Jordan's needs, according to a press release by the British Embassy in Amman.

Mr. Ghazzawi, an adviser at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, attended the conference, extended the Kingdom's legal, political and commercial policies on water resources, fair distribution of water supplies and other issues related to water resources in the present multilateral talks of the Arab-Israeli peace talks in Rome and Vienna.

Mr. Ghazzawi was quoted by the British Embassy as saying that the London conference offered him the opportunity to present an accurate picture on Jordan's water needs.

The conference, which was attended by 50 delegates from 12 Arab and foreign countries was organised by the School of Oriental and African Studies at London University.

During his stay in London, Mr. Ghazzawi met a number of British government officials to discuss water projects like that being implemented in Qaa Disi which is being financed by the British government.

Private schools warned to abide by the rules

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government has to adopt punitive measures against private schools for what is considered by the Private Educational Sector Association as a constant abuse of the Ministry of Education's regulations, according to Mustafa Abed Rabbo.

"The association will refrain from performing its duties towards these institutions as of Saturday," if the regulations are not implemented, he said in an interview with the Jordan Times Tuesday.

The association sent a memorandum of protest Monday to the prime minister, the minister of education and the Lower House of Parliament. The memorandum urges the concerned authorities to put an end to the different kinds of abuses exercised by private educational institutions against their employees and demand them to promulgate a law in which equal and just treatment to teachers are fully met.

According to Mr. Abed Rabbo, conditions are going from bad to worse, and the "fact that no one is protesting against the schools' constant violations and their abuse of power is what renders the situation impossible

to handle at present without governmental interference."

No reaction was registered from the concerned parties, but sources at the Ministry of Education say that the demands are under study and a response would be issued soon.

"Some teachers get a salary at JD 90 per month for a work that is worth JD 50," said Mr. Abed Rabbo. "At present, there are some cases of young teachers looking for work experience for any amount of money or simply to fill their time, they would accept the job at any rate and be satisfied with JD 50 and sometimes some would go for JD 30."

Some private schools and kindergartens have also their way of turning around the law by signing two contracts at the same time with the teacher, one at a low salary, which is considered the real salary the teacher gets, and another one which abides by the ministry's formal regulations for inspection's purposes.

"All contracts should be done through the association to make sure that further abuses do not take place," Mr. Abed Rabbo insisted. "The government has to take the initiative and include all the concerned parties to find a comprehensive solution for employees."

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

- Sculpture exhibition by Mona Saudi at Al Balqa Art Gallery in Al Balqa.
- Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Turki Abdul Amic at the Al Balqa Art Gallery.
- Exhibition of paintings and silkscreen by three artists from Gaza Fayed Al Hasani, Kamel Al Mughanni and Laila Shawra at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.)
- Art exhibition by artist Ghassan Abu Lahan at Phoenix Art Gallery.
- Sculpture exhibition by artist Ahmad Saad Mohlalat at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Jordan, Tunisia to forge closer links

TUNIS (Petra) — Jordan and Tunisia over the past few days have been discussing measures designed to further facilitate the exchange of agricultural products and to launch joint ventures.

The talks were conducted by Minister of Supply Mohammad Saqqaf and a Tunisian team led by Minister of national economy, Mr. Al Sadekrahe. The two ministers reviewed bilateral economic relations and discussed means of further freeing trade exchanges from restrictions.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the two sides agreed to exchange lists of agricultural products of which each side has a surplus with a view to studying the prospect of importing them from each other, at world market rates. Petra said that the more was considered as one step towards further increasing the volume of trade between the two countries.

Jordan, which normally imports olive oil from Tunisia will this year place no orders because it is presently self sufficient, Mr. Saqqaf said.

U.N. team conducts research on Palestinian refugee situation

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif Tuesday received a United Nations (U.N.) fact-finding mission who are researching the situation of Palestinian refugees.

Official figures indicate that the number of registered Palestinian refugees now stands at 2,648,707 with nearly 1.01 million living in Jordan.

The figures were presented to a U.N. fact finding mission led by Mustafia Tleili who arrived in Amman Monday evening on a two-day visit.

The number of refugees made homeless as a result of the 1948 war was estimated then at 600,000, but the number has multiplied over the years as the Palestinian land remains occupied. Said head of the ministry's department for Palestinian affairs Adel Irsheid who met with the U.N. team in his office Tuesday.

According to Mr. Tleili the U.N. team is in Amman in order to acquaint themselves with the progress in the Arab Israeli peace

negotiations and also to meet with officials from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to obtain information about the Palestinian refugee camps in the Kingdom and the nature of services offered to them by the agency and the government of Jordan.

Mr. Irsheid spoke about the waves of Palestinian refugees flooding Jordan since 1948 and the latest wave that came from Kuwait following the Gulf war. He noted the heavy burden imposed on the Jordanian economy due to the increased demand on health, social, educational facilities.

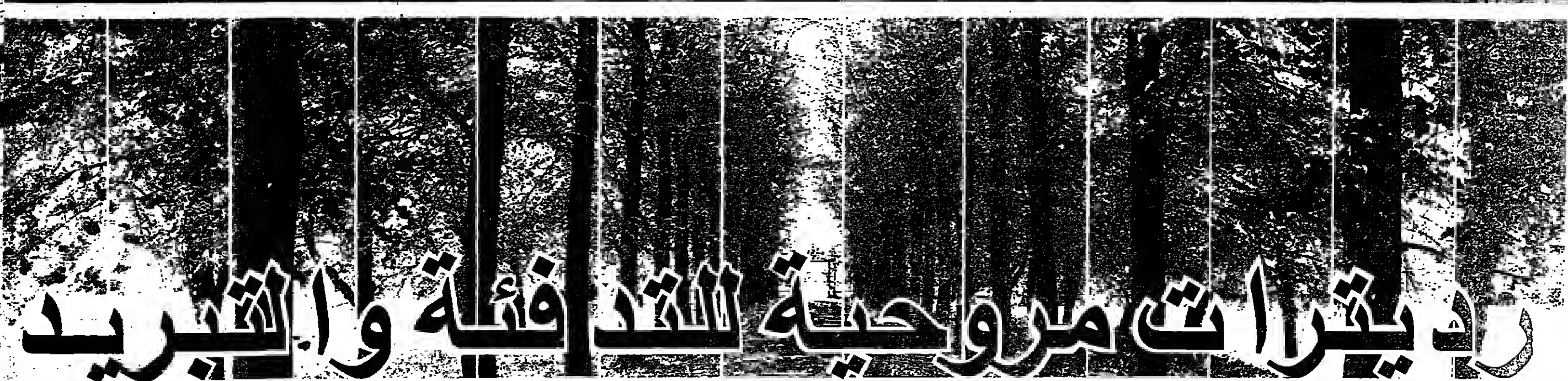
The U.N. team members who are also to visit Syria and Egypt have been entrusted with its mission by the United Nations organisation in order to find fresh means of providing assistance to the Palestinian refugees Mr. Tleili.

After the meeting with Mr. Irsheid, the U.N. team visited the Baqaa refugee camp to inspect schools run by UNRWA.

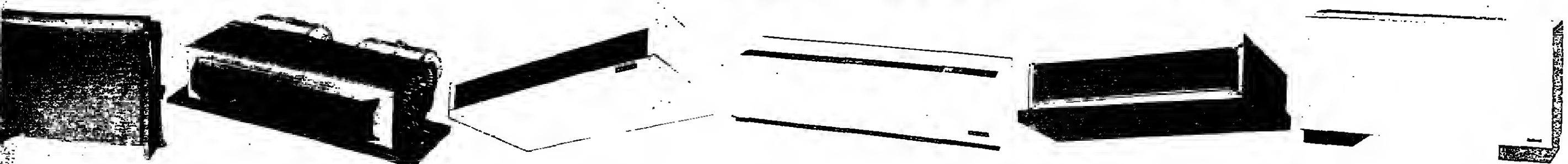
Grant extended to families of the intifida

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Popular Committee for the support of the Palestinian intifada has decided to extend JD 250,000 in grants to a number of charitable societies in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The contribution which was made on the eve of the sixth anniversary of the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation aims at assisting these societies in implementing their charity programmes and supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people on their national soil, according to secretary of the committee Mamdouh Al Abbadi. He said the committee had extended JD 500,000 to charity societies in the occupied territories over the past two years. The committee, he said, will continue to offer assistance to the families of Palestinian martyrs killed during intifada activities at an average of JD 1,000 to every martyr's family.



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By: Dr. Abdalla Malki

Jordan Times

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Set the people free

IT IS not only the fate of Jordanian political detainees still languishing in Syrian jails for several decades that is of concern to Jordan but also the fate of Syrian prisoners of conscience incarcerated in violation of the minimum respect for human rights norms and standards. And it is not only Syria's record on such issues that attracts our attention and concern but also the entire file of human rights across the rest of the Arab World.

By and large the Arab record on respecting civil and political rights is abysmal. International accounts paint a rather gloomy picture about how Arab governments fare on internationally binding human rights principles and guidelines.

It goes without saying that Arab malaise and weakness are attributed basically to the lack of pluralistic democracy in most Arab countries. In spite of the continuous rhetoric about the need to incorporate multi-party democracy and introduce minimum human rights standards into the practices and legislations of most of the Arab countries, the gap between theory and practice is still growing by leaps and bounds.

The belated release of former Syrian President Nourine Al Atasi only shortly before his death from illness that developed during his 22 years in prison has brought to focus the issue of political prisoners in Syria and elsewhere across the Arab World. To the credit of Damascus, thousands of political prisoners were released early this year under an amnesty declared on the occasion of the reelection of President Hafez Al Assad. Yet such measures simply do not go far enough to eradicate the phenomenon of arbitrary arrest and detention in Syria. Damascus needs to consolidate its human rights record by first freeing the rest of the political prisoners still languishing in its cells and then by making a clear and unequivocal commitment that henceforth no-one would be arrested or detained without the due process of the law taking its course.

Being essentially a regional power, it is incumbent on Syria to show the way for greater and deeper democracy on the basis of multi-party parliamentary system. Syria holds a special place in the Arab Order. Arabs everywhere look up to that country for charting a new path towards development both material and intellectual.

To be fair, other Arab centres of power need also to move more effectively and forcefully in the direction of full democracy. Until such time, when most of the Arab states have gone democratic, Arab woes and suffering will continue to languish in the Arab milieu everywhere.

Jordan has shown the way for introducing liberty and self-determination to the Arab masses. It has worked well for the country in spite of the repeated errors and trials associated with the process of democratisation. We are sure democracy can work well also for the rest of our neighbours.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE PALESTINIAN intifada today enters its sixth year, with the Palestinian people more determined than ever before to secure their freedom from Israeli occupation and with the Israelis more confused about the means to end the uprising, said Al Ra'i daily Tuesday. The children of Palestine, using stones and knives, proved they are stronger than the formidable war machine, of the strongest power in the Middle East by maintaining the longest popular resistance in modern history, the paper said. Israeli military leaders, said the paper, start off their tasks in the Arab territory by launching atrocities and using brutal force to crush the uprising, promising the Israelis that the intifada will soon be over; despite the fact that this has been the practice over the past five years, no Israeli government to date has been able to put down the uprising. The military leaders go and their tasks end without being able to crush the resistance that has been growing stronger every day in the face of numerous odds and despite the conspiracies concocted by various circles against the Palestinian people in support of Israel, the paper added. It said that with the start of the sixth year in the life of the intifada we can say that the defeat of a nation can never come through military victory of its enemies, but rather if this nation gave way to capitulation and surrender. It said, that despite the lapse of 25 years of occupation, the Palestinians proved they are determined to overcome Israel's arrogance and use all their power to defeat the Israeli occupation.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Tuesday came out in support of the dispatch of U.S. troops to Somalia, noting that this move came after the Arab and Muslim World has failed to do anything to end the tragedy. The mission of the U.S. troops in Somalia is quite different from the one they carried out in the Gulf because in Somalia they have no oil interests to protect, said Sultan Al Hattab. The Arabs and Muslims were given sufficient time to take action and end the starvation of the Somali people and end their factional fighting, but they have failed to achieve this goal except sending limited amounts of food supplies to the dying people, the writer pointed out. No condemnation over the dispatching of foreign troops to Somalia can ever save the dying people from their fate, he said, and what is needed is quick action to ensure that food supplies reach their destination. The Arab and Muslim foreign ministers, who recently met in Saudi Arabia, discussed means of arming the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina in the face of Serb attacks that lifted no figure to ensure aid to the Somali people, he continued.

Economic Forum

The growth of GDP and GNP

DURING THE last two weeks, two Jordanian economic achievements were unveiled: Jordan's gross domestic product (GDP) is purported to have grown at a real rate of 12 per cent during 1992 and the domestic revenues of the government for 1992 have risen to the level of its current expenditures and they, moreover, financed a certain portion, probably 40 per cent, of capital expenditures. Provided there are no statistical errors, especially with respect to GDP growth rate, such achievements are resounding by all standards. Let us scan these figures.

GDP is one of the basic aggregates of the national accounts. To measure it, the national accountant indulges in a vast process of estimating the value of each good and service produced in the country in any given year. The process involves so many assumptions, and certain types of information are passed to the national accountant only belatedly while other types are refined or adjusted constantly. This is why national account aggregates involve wide margins of what technicians call "statistical errors" and are sometimes changed after the elapse of many years.

The above technical considerations make it imperative to take national account parameters with a certain degree of reservation. However, in the particular case of the above-mentioned phenomenal GDP growth rate, this reservation is really not important because even if the statistical error is as wide as 50 per cent, we will still be left with 6 per cent growth in real terms, which remains

remarkable as well.

However, the more significant parameter is the growth rate of Jordan's gross national product (GNP) which refers to that part of goods and services produced in 1992, which belongs to Jordanians, while GDP measures output of all goods and services produced in Jordan whether they belong to Jordanians or non-Jordanians such as Arab employees (see Economic Forum, Jordan Times, May 20, 1992). It is the growth rate of GNP, in real terms, which only and eventually matters, as it is the indicator that shows whether Jordanians became better off and, if so, by how much. Data on national accounts are published only a long time after the end of the year; any estimates available now, no matter how rough, are accessible only to policy-makers who are keen to publicise the spectacular growth rate of GDP. Among other observers, we are eager to know the growth rate of our GNP and not only that of GDP.

And there is one very important reason for this eagerness: GNP encompasses remittances of Jordanians working abroad; GDP does not. In the post-Gulf war also, it is well known that these remittances dropped considerably. Balance of payment figures indicate that these remittances climaxed in 1991 at JD796 million, from JD406 million and 358 million in 1990 and 1989 respectively. In the period 1986-90, they averaged JD366 million. The terrible conclusion is starkly evident: if the remittances of Jordanians

working abroad are to normalise in 1992 at their pre-level, around 16 per cent would be wiped out of any extra GDP. In other words, GDP must grow at 16 per cent in order to make up for the drop in GNP emanating from the sharp remittances. Of course, we are told that GDP rose at a rate of 16 per cent in nominal terms (4 per cent inflation plus 12 per cent real growth). This means that GNP would hardly, in 1992, on the assumption that remittances of Jordanians dropped in 1992 only to their normal level before 1991, know very well that this is a very optimistic assumption. Remittances must have fallen far beyond that level. A conceivable drop in the remittances of expatriate workers because the former are in the range of JD50 million annum, so that wiping them out altogether will not be the picture.

Unfortunately, these figures do paint a gloomy picture; they suggest that Jordanians have not become better off even with a 12 per cent real growth in GDP.

There is a very good chance for the real growth rate of GDP to be negative.

What is needed now is for our policymakers to estimate the real growth rate of Jordan's gross national product rather than dwelling on that of GDP and thus save themselves to dangerous complacency.

Operation Balkan Storm: Here's a plan

By George Kenney and Michael J. Dugan

WASHINGTON — Here's how the Balkan crisis could unfold.

It is late January 1993. President Bill Clinton decides it is in the American security interest to oppose Serbian aggression in the Balkans with force, in particular to permit the Bosnians to defend themselves. His advisers believe there is a third option beyond the choices President George Bush claimed he faced — either doing nothing or sending a hundreds of thousands of ground troops. Mr. Clinton's advisers develop a three-step plan based on the use of American competitive advantages.

The first step is coalition building. The U.S. should not act unilaterally — that was the mistake we made in Vietnam — yet the U.N. Security Council is deadlocked on the use of force, as is NATO. A coalition is possible only through ad-hoc arrangements. Three allies, Great Britain, France and Italy, must be included; they provide staging bases and a limited number of air, naval and ground forces which support a U.S.-dominated air power operation. The coalition arms and trains Bosnian forces, who conduct unconventional operations on the ground to recover their country.

President Clinton persuades several allies to agree to this plan. Here, Russia is a key player. Were Russia to disapprove at the start, the coalition would still keep it fully informed, while leaving the door open for cooperation. There is reason to believe Russia could be talked into participating: it has a natural interest

in being seen as a player on the world stage in this peace-making effort.

The second step is insuring coordination with United Nations operations and deliveries of humanitarian relief. U.N. personnel become Serbian targets so the U.N. suspends its convoys. The U.N. operations are thus subordinated to larger war aims. But with coalition support, the

armed Bosnians are as able as the U.N. to deliver aid. In addition, the United States drops food packages on refugee areas from planes flying above ground fire. Bosnian forces create "safe haven" areas, which help prevent the depopulation of Bosnia and save tens of thousands of lives. The havens also keep hundreds of thousands of refugees out of Western Europe.

The third step is active belligerency, in two phases: first, destroying Serbian forces in Bosnia and, second, using concentrated force against Serbia itself.

In phase one, the U.S. uses AWACS aircraft and F-15 fighters to establish visible allied air supremacy over all the territory of the former Yugoslavia. Next, Serbian heavy artillery and armored units in Bosnia are

prime targets for air strikes. British and French infiltration teams deploy anti-battery radar to locate Serbian artillery positions near areas under siege.

From bases in Italy and from one carrier in the Adriatic, U.S. F-15s, F-16s, F-18s and F-111s systematically neutralise the Serbian artillery units with precision-guided bombs and missiles. Using the Joint Surveillance Target

solve by sending new Bosnia from bases in Montenegro, by conflict in Croatia, or a diversionary war in any combination of

Such action would phase two: U.S. Tomahawk missiles, trees of gravity in instruct Serbian troops their barracks; if they track their moves JSTARS and hit the strikes. Technology fiber strands allows useless Serbia's elec without destroying, once hostilities cease be restored.

Other technology turn petroleum refineries and storage useless jelly, without the facilities. We des communication inside the same time, we Serbian air waves intentions to end the the Serbian people.

That is a war it cannot win.

Such an operation involve huge forces: be a joint Air Force tion of moderate diff U.S. would need, app one carrier battle gro up 60 aircraft in th plus 3 AWACS, 1 JST KC-135 tankers, 24 F-15s, 18 F-111s ap with assorted stan precision-guided

The operation free, but United blood and treasure modest compared Bosnian trauma are indications Saudi Arabia would consider paying share of these costs would be the

A war in the establish U.S. post-cold war world Operation Desert could.

George Kenney is a the Carnegie International Peace. Dugan is a retired general and former chief of Staff, The printed from The Times.



Israelis keep Gaza Strip under siege

(Continued from page 1)

wing Likud Party, said the incident in the Gaza underscored his belief that "we need to get out of there."

He pointed out that in the 25 years Israel has occupied the squalid Strip, the population has mushroomed from 250,000 people to some 800,000 today. "The region is in a terrible economic situation and people are living in impossible physical conditions," Mr. Arens said. "We do not have the economic assets to change this situation. Therefore, in my opinion, our being there has no benefit."

Foreign Minister Peres was more cautious, telling Israel Radio that a withdrawal must be negotiated.

"I do not rule out that sometime there will be such a possibility of unilateral withdrawal, but what is preferable is a bilateral agreement," he said.

He said the timing was likely to be "when the other side, at least some of the residents, will be interested in quiet."

He noted that Israeli and Palestinian negotiators at the U.S.-backed peace talks in Washington were discussing limited self-rule for the occupied territories.

Palestinian lawyer Freih Abu Medeen, who chairs the Gaza Bar Association, told the Associated Press that resistance was the normal response to occupation.

"The Israelis must admit that the occupation is the source of the violence," Mr. Abu Medeen said. "Now there is no hope for the Palestinians."

The closure, which the army said was for an "indefinite period," could exacerbate economic problems among Gaza residents, who are dependent on Israel for jobs. Almost daily, some 30,000 Gaza workers enter Israel.

In occupied Jerusalem, Israeli and Palestinian groups issued re-

ports critical of the government's human rights record in the occupied territories.

The Israeli group B'tselem said that 186 children had been killed by Israeli security forces over the past five years. Undercover units, often disguised in Arab dress, have killed 110 Palestinians, it said.

"We think it is an extremely serious phenomenon that after five years and after all the experience, the (Israeli army) still cannot disperse a demonstration where the security of its men is not in danger without the use of lethal weapons," said Yuval Ginbar, who prepared the report for B'tselem.

A report by the Palestine Human Rights Information Centre was especially critical of prison conditions. "Interrogations are characterised by intimidation, physical and psychological violence and threats of deportation, long detention without trial, or killing," it said.

"Man's most basic right is the right to life. To our great regret, there was no improvement under the current government," Mr. Ginbar told a news conference.

The number of Palestinians killed by Israeli forces was up by 20 per cent in 1992 from the previous year, breaking a trend of steady decline. Of 116 Palestinians killed in the uprising's fifth year, 41 were killed since August, B'tselem said.

At least 16 were killed during stone-throwing demonstrations where B'tselem enquiries and army statements showed soldiers' lives were not in danger. Five were children.

Since January undercover units have killed 43 Palestinians, 17 since August, B'tselem said, compared to 23 in all of 1991.

The group charged interrogators still routinely tortured Palestinian prisoners. Four prisoners died during or immediately after interrogation in 1992.

Legitimacy and democracy in Jordan

By Faisal Akel Al Fayez

THE stability of any democracy depends not only on economic development, but also upon the effectiveness and the legitimacy of its political system. Effectiveness means actual performance, the extent to which the system satisfies the basic functions of government as most of the population and such groups within it, as big businesses or the armed forces, see them. Legitimacy involves the capacity of the system to engender and maintain the belief that existing political institutions are the most appropriate ones for the society.

A crisis of legitimacy occurs when major groups in the society become unable to have access to the political power as soon as they develop political demands.

Following rapid economic development and the rise in the standard of living, the middle class in a given society, led by the intelligentsia, tends to grow and organise itself. This new class, after gaining economic power, will seek access to political power. When they have access to power then they show loyalty to political institutions. They will accept the legitimacy of the regime and its institutions. Political systems which deny new strata access to power will force some emerging groups to adopt extremist ideologies which could lead to violence and would threaten the political system itself.

A highly effective but illegitimate system, such as a tightly-governed country is, therefore, less stable than regimes which are relatively in-

effective but have a higher degree of legitimacy.

In Jordan, the Hashemite Monarchy as a political institution is unique among other regimes in the region. It has historical legitimacy. The Hashemites are direct descendants of the Prophet Mohammad. This gives them the right to rule. Based on this fact and through the wisdom of our King, the monarchy as a political institution has the loyalty of all groups in the society: Jordanians, Palestinians, Muslims, Christians, Circassians, Armenians, leftists, rightists, etc.

After many years of rapid economic development, increased wealth and education there emerged in Jordan over a period of 30 years, a high level of literacy, a general level of prosperity, social homogeneity, a strong and large middle class, and a lengthy period of peace. This new enlarged middle class, spearheaded by the intelligentsia, had access three years ago to a political institution, the Parliament, through parliamentary elections. In the Parliament all political groups are represented. These groups range from the extreme right to the extreme left, from Muslim Brothers to Communists. With the legalisation of political parties under way access to power will be complete.

So, in addition to historical legitimacy, added now is political legitimacy. The democratic process in Jordan is moving rapidly and steadily. King Hussein's wisdom and political experience has made Jordan an oasis of stability and a model for other countries to follow.

LETTERS

Rumour mill should stop

To the Editor:

I have seen nothing spread faster than rumours in Amman. People seem to be recognised in the streets by their nicknames, even better, by their nicknames.

You would be amazed by how much people know about more than you know about yourself. Some names are known to the faces they accompany. Rumour-mongers are so intent on their interpretation, character of a person (according to the rumours, of course) they seem to forget that there are human beings, behind names attributed to them, who could suffer from the projected about them by other people.

Judging people without knowing them is unfair, to say the least. Thinking that you know someone only from rumours is detrimental to a person's character, and to your perception of reality. How many times did we meet someone we "knew" others and who turned out to be different, actually were in good, unlike we thought they were?

I think it is about time we realise that there are better things to do than spread rumours about others.

Amal T. Abuhadi, P.O. Box 35152, Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name, preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of manuscripts.

Features

Two suspects held in Iraqi's killing

(Continued from page 1)

armament in its weapons development programmes and the information could have been obtained by Iraq. The Iraqi arrested Monday identified by sources as Rajai, a taxi-driver who used to ply the Amman-Baghdad route. He was seized at the Rweishid post on the border with Iraq.

alestinians urge U.S. to join talks

(Continued from page 1)

rules of the peace process as set in U.N. resolutions which speak of a withdrawal from the occupied territories in exchange for peace. The four sets of negotiations, at the talks with Jordan appear to be in a state of limbo. Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber said Sunday the talks were proceeding as well as could be expected. The Israeli-Syrian talks are jammed over Syria's demand for a full withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights versus Israel's demand for a Syrian commitment to sign a full and formal peace with the Jewish state. The Israeli-Lebanese talks are deadlocked over Israel's demand for a full withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights versus Israel's demand for a Syrian commitment to sign a full and formal peace with the Jewish state. The Israeli-Lebanese talks are deadlocked over Israel's demand for a full withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights versus Israel's demand for a Syrian commitment to sign a full and formal peace with the Jewish state.

omali leaders pledge

(Continued from page 1)

situation has improved recently. "The steam seems to have gone out of the fight," said Rick Grant of the International relief agency. "The average Mogadishu inhabitant has got to be sick of this bombed out rubble city." Relief agencies were taking cautions Tuesday in advance of the expected dawn arrival of Marines. The United Nations Children's

for a meeting which she refused because she suspected something was amiss.

The killing comes amid charges by U.N. officials that Iraqis are not cooperating with the world body in its efforts to eliminate Iraq's weapons programmes. Numerous projects have been identified and destroyed, but the U.N. officials say that Iraq could be withholding information or misleading inspectors.

Reuters quoted a cousin of Mrs. Janabi as saying that "Police told us early today (Tuesday) that the criminals were seized but they did not tell us who was behind it."

Asca Ahmad Al Janabi told the agency that Bakr, acting on a tip from the family, had arrested the taxi driver.

"Police told us that through the

driver, the murderer, an Iraqi man, was arrested," she was quoted as saying.

She said the driver had telephoned Mrs. Janabi's an hour before the murder took place telling her that he had arrived from Baghdad with \$200 for them from her brother.

"Wafa told the driver she would see him at 1 o'clock on Monday because they had to go now to the Tunisian embassy to get a visa to be able to go to Libya through Tunis," Asca said.

Brotherhood's front gets legalisation

(Continued from page 1)

Mbeideen and Minister of Municipal Affairs Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat, are members of the front, officials at the prime ministry confirmed.

The Islamic Action Front was formed as a compromise when the Brotherhood refused to be labelled a political party. Their status as welfare society, they felt, was more appropriate.

The Islamic Action Front was formed as the party to represent the Brotherhood and independent Islamists. The Brotherhood has had the status of a welfare society for over 30 years.

The Brotherhood is the fourth party to win official recognition from the

government, after a new Political Parties Law took effect Sept. 1.

A row broke out earlier this week when the Ministry of Interior rejected applications by the Jordanian Communist Party and the Arab Baath Socialist Party.

At least six parties and dozens of political commentators denounced the move by the Ministry of Interior as undemocratic.

The leaders of the two parties are appealing the ministry's decision in the Higher Court of Justice.

Parliament replies to King's speech

(Continued from page 1)

clear evidence that unemployment is increasing ... leading to a number of social phenomena that require deep assessment."

The developing social situation, said the Upper House, calls for collective action by the three branches of government and a national strategic policy for social development.

Labour, education, health, housing and environment issues should be the essence of development policies, the Upper House said.

"In our view," said the Senate, "these issues are no less important than freedom, security and participatory decision making process." It warned against the negative social impact of poverty, growing unemployment and rising crime.

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سيفوي

Al Orthodoxy score big win over Al Ahli to clinch U-22 trophy

By Aileen Baanayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Orthodoxy Tuesday asserted themselves as the undisputed powerhouse of Jordanian basketball as they beat once all-time rivals Al Ahli 90-61 in the final match of the Under-22 Basketball Championship organized by the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF).

Al Ahli had twice beaten Al Orthodoxy in the course of the U-22 championship and therefore no one expected that Al Orthodoxy would win by such a big margin. But as the match progressed Al Orthodoxy successfully widened their 10-point lead to 20 and later to 30-point gap which Al Ahli's frail teamwork could not catch up with, and eventually suffered an unexpected humiliating defeat setting for second place.

Both teams were tied at 9-9 in the sixth minute. Al Orthodoxy, however, took the lead depending on Rashed Al Haj in playmaking while Jan Sahlieh and Muntaser Abul Tayyeb scored to give their team its first big lead at 22-10.

Al Orthodoxy's Ziad Nabulsi and Sahlieh alternated at scoring, while Al Ahli's Walid Badran, Ramez Hamoudah and teammates seemed to be going wrong for them. Al Ahli's coach asked for a time-out hoping to change the way things were going but Al Ahli lacked concentration, while Al Orthodoxy took advantage of a series of turnovers and loose balls to build a commanding 38-15 lead.

Al Ahli's undisputed star Taimour Al Shamali put up a great effort to score for his



Al Orthodoxy's team

team as his teammates lost chance after chance ending the first half 47-28 for Al Orthodoxy.

Al Orthodoxy continued scoring as Mudar Barakat, Al Haj and Nabulsi widened the gap to 67-34. Al Ahli's Mohammad Al Shamali, not fully recovered from a recent injury, scored a three-pointer, but Al Ahli seemed lacking teamwork and increasingly depended on individual efforts, mainly that of the younger Shamali brother, Taimour.

Al Orthodoxy's Mustafa Al Ghoul and Abul Tayyeb secured offensive and defensive

rebounding, as the ex-calling Nabulsi and Sahlieh scored to lift their team to an 86-45 lead. Meanwhile, the unrelenting Taimour Al Shamali defended, rebounded and scored most of his team's points. Al Orthodoxy, however, were unstoppable as they won the championship defeating Al Ahli 90-61.

In a previous match Al Ahli won third place as they beat Al Hussein 76-67. Also Tuesday Al Ahli were crowned U-15 champions while Al Ahli received the U-17 trophy. Next on the JBF agenda is the First Division Championship which will begin Friday Dec. 11.

FINAL STANDINGS

Team	W	L	PF	SA	Pts
Al Orthodoxy	5	1	515	385	11
Al Ahli	4	2	440	412	10
Al Ahli	3	3	405	406	9
Al Hussein	0	6	404	561	6

Match worth an entire season

FLORENCE (AP) — If Fiorentina doesn't win another match this season, its fans will probably forget the team.

"At times, a single victory can outweigh the results of an entire year," said Fiorentina president Mario Cecchi Gori after the viola handily defeated Juventus of Torino 2-0. "We all feel audacious, and the responsibility to beat Juventus here in Florence, and today we did it."

With the loss to Fiorentina, Juventus failed to take advantage of AC Milan's unexpected 1-1 draw against Udinese. Nor was Internazionale of Milan, shellacked 3-0 at Ancona, able to profit from Milan's false step.

Having played 11 matches — one match fewer than its rivals — Fiorentina sits atop the first division with 19 points. Its nearest rival, Inter, trails by four points, while Juventus, Fiorentina, Torino, and surprising Cagliari are tied at 14 points.

Most sports rivalries are generated by physical proximity — the derbies between the two Milan or two Turin teams or on a perennial battle between equals for league honors.

The Fiorentina-Juventus feud is based instead on history. In 1981-82, the two teams were tied going into the last match of the season.

The viola played to a 0-0 draw at Cagliari. A goal by Fiorentina striker Francesco Graziani was disallowed on a disputed offside call. At the same time, Juventus defeated Catanzaro 1-0 on a last minute penalty kick by Irish playmaker Liam Brady, a penalty kick that Fiorentina fans claim was invented — along with the offside call.

Florence's fans have neither

forgotten nor forgiven the Juventus "cheat."

"In the past, when Juventus was much stronger than we were, it was enough that Fiorentina beat Juventus and ruin its chances for winning the title," said Viola fan club president Marcello Mammioli. "That was our most important objective."

And Juventus has repaid the animosity in kind.

"For the first time since I've been here, people stopped me on the street and asked me to score a goal against Fiorentina," said German midfielder Andreas Moeller, playing his first season with Juventus.

"You don't understand, they told me. This isn't like other matches. It's not even like the derby."

Sunday's victory was so important to Cecchi Gori that he broke his own contract with his players to award them a special 100 million (\$75,000) victory prize.

"I would be wrong if I didn't reach for my wallet here," said the film and television mogul. "We couldn't have played any better than we did today. And we showed that we were equal to Juventus."

Since 1982, the two teams have enjoyed vastly different destinies. Juventus went on to win two more Italian titles, a European Champions Cup, a European Super Cup, and an Intercontinental Cup. Fiorentina's best showing was a fourth place finish in 1986. The team has finished 12th for three consecutive seasons.

In 1990, Fiorentina reached the finals of the UEFA Cup where it lost — you guessed it — Juventus.

As if it were necessary, more gasoline was poured onto the Fiorentina-Juventus fire in May

1990, when star Fiorentina playmaker Roberto Baggio was sold to the Turin club for a then-record sum of 25 billion lire (\$10.0 million).

Injured during Italy's World Cup qualifying match against Scotland, Baggio did not dress for Sunday's contest at Florence. Since his "defection," Juventus has lost all three of its matches at Fiorentina.

The scenes at Florence's Comunale Stadium have not always been uplifting. Last year, Fiorentina fans taunted Juventus supporters with chants referring to the death of former Juventus star Gaetano Scirea. On Sunday, it was the Juventus fans turn to offend with anti-semitic shouts aimed at the viola rooters.

Florence mayor Giorgio Morales was indignant about the anti-semitic chants by hometown fans.

"They should stop the match for protest," he said after the first half of play, with Fiorentina leading 1-0. "The players should walk off the field and not return. Even if this is Fiorentina-Juventus."

IOC to tighten dope test loopholes

LAUSANNE (AP) — Olympic officials are moving to head off lawsuits of the type that won Dutch Reynolds \$27.3 million in damages from world track's ruling body.

The International Olympic Committee said it would review and perfect all of its drug testing procedures to discourage athletes from going to court to challenge positive drug findings.

"We are sure we will be in a position where it will be impossible to find any failure in these rules," said Prince Alexandre de Merode, chairman of the IOC Medical Commission. "Somebody can always contest and say he wants to verify the procedure inside the laboratory. They have to prove we have made a mistake or the lab has made a mistake."

Olympic officials are worried that the Reynolds case will lead to a flurry of other lawsuits in the United States before the 1996 summer games in Atlanta.

De Merode said athletes should continue to have legal recourse to challenge drug-test results, but he complained that courts often ignore the key issue.

Reynolds, the world record holder in the 400 metres, claimed there were faulty procedures in the drug test which led to his suspension in 1990 for alleged use of the banned anabolic steroid Nandrolone.

He filed suit against the International Amateur Athletic Federation, and last week a federal judge in Columbus, Ohio, awarded him \$20.5 million in

punitive damages and \$6.8 million in potential lost earnings.

The IAAF dismissed the verdict as "worthless," saying the U.S. Court has no jurisdiction over the London based federation. The IAAF has also threatened to extend Reynolds' suspension, due to expire Dec. 31, and to sue him for libel.

Francois Carrard, the IOC's director general, said one or two working groups would be set up to deal with the doping and litigation issues. The panel will include lawyers and officials from the 1994 Winter Olympics in Lillehammer. The Atlanta Games and the U.S. Olympic Committee.

A possible solution, Carrard said, is to establish an independent arbitration commission to settle doping and other disputes. He has suggested requiring athletes to sign a form promising to resolve any grievances in arbitration rather than in the courts.

On another doping issue, De Merode reported that progress continues to be made in blood testing and the procedure should be ready to be introduced at the Lillehammer Games. Blood tests are designed to detect open and other banned substances which can't be found in urinalysis.

The executive board is scheduled to hear reports from organizers of three winter games — 1992 in Albertville, 1994 in Lillehammer and 1998 in Nagano, Japan. The final session Wednesday is dedicated to meetings with the international winter sports federations.

Grand Slam Cup likely to be McEnroe's last major tournament

MUNICH (AP) — Nothing has been decided for certain, John McEnroe says, but this week's Grand Slam Cup could be the last big tournament for the man whose talent and temper left such a huge impression on the game in the last decade.

McEnroe, in an interview with the German newsmagazine Der Spiegel published Monday, said he won't play any more Grand Slam tournaments. But he also appeared to be leaving the door slightly ajar for a possible change of mind about a full retirement.

"Nothing has been decided 100 per cent, but I know that it's the end now. I want to stay in shape so that I can play some exhibitions against the top players such as Boris Becker or Michael Stich. But in Wimbledon, in Paris and at the U.S. Open, I'll be working as commentator," McEnroe was quoted as saying.

"Let's put it this way: I am withdrawing," McEnroe was quoted as saying in the Spiegel interview.

The Grand Slam Cup, the richest tournament in the world, which starts Tuesday, will dish out \$6 million to the 16 players invited to the six day event.

The winner will go home \$2

million richer, first round losers will collect \$100,000 in consolation.

The tournament invites players with the best record in the four Grand Slam events of the year — The Australian, French, U.S. Opens and Wimbledon.

Top-ranked Jim Courier, who won in Australia and France, has declined to play.

Also missing is Boris Becker. David Wheaton, who won last year, is sure to make \$50,000 this year — as an alternate, should another player join Ivan Lendl in dropping out at the last moment.

Niklas Kulti was summoned to replace the injured Lendl and will face McEnroe in the opening round.

The tournament begins Tuesday with Henri Leconte playing Wayne Ferreira, Petr Korda facing Wally Masur, Guy Forget against Goran Ivanisevic and Emilio Sanchez against Richard Krajicek, in that order.

On Wednesday, McEnroe plays Kulti, Wimbledon champion Andre Agassi meets Michael Chang, top seeded and U.S. Open champion Stefan Edberg battles Michael Stich and Pete Sampras, the 1990 winner here, faces Alexander Volkov.

Barcelona, Sao Paulo to clash for World Club title

TOKYO (R) — Barcelona of Spain or Sao Paulo of Brazil? There is little to choose between the two in-form sides who compete in Tokyo Sunday for the title of the world's best club team.

A global television audience of hundreds of millions is assured for the annual Toyota Cup match, the 13th since crowd and player violence made organization scrap the original home-and-away clash between European and South American champions.

The Brazilians arrived in Tokyo Monday night and, despite wind and rain, at once went to train in a park near their hotel.

We're fortunate we could bring our best players here, Sao Paulo coach Tele Santana told reporters. If we play to the best of our ability, we can win.

Our four goals in the Sao Paulo championship final proves we are an attacking team. So is Barcelona. It is going to be an attractive game.

The match is the most important in the history of this club, Santana said.

Sao Paulo beat Palmeiras 4-2 at the weekend in the first leg of the championship final. The second leg is on December 19.

Against all the odds, Sao Paulo have managed to keep European clubs from poaching their best players. They retain the core of the team that won the Libertadores Cup in June, including four regular members of Brazil's national team — Cafu, Rai, Muller and Palhinha.

Sao Paulo's probable line-up for Sunday is: Zetti, Vitor, Adilson, Ronaldo, Ronaldo Luis Pinheiro, Tominho Cerezo, Palhinha Rai, Cafu and Muller.

Barcelona, due in Tokyo Thursday, are also in superb form, top of the Spanish League, two points clear of the pack after a comfortable 4-0 win at lowly Cadix, with two goals from fiery Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov.

Barcelona have scored 15 goals in their last three games. Apart from the quicksilver Stoichkov, Sao Paulo must watch Dutch sharpshooter Ronald Koeman, Dane Michael Laudrup and Spaniard Julio Salinas.

Such is the growing passion for soccer in Japan, not long ago a minnow in the world game, that all 60,000 stadium seats for the Toyota Cup match sold out in a matter of days.

Japan launches its first professional league next May, and the country is favourite to stage the 2002 World Cup. Sunday's final will be broadcast to 100 countries.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 9, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Fox

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The Lunar Eclipse and Full Moon in Gemini is well aspected, bringing both Jupiter and Saturn, allowing you to face any thorny issue in a philosophical manner, without making unwise comments.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) An outside matter can require a considerable amount of patience on your part, but after some time you will gain personal progress through a unique plan.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You are pressured from within or without to go after a new goal that is not yet ready for your attention, but tonight put something modern in your vocabulary.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) An argument in the morning over some money or property matter could put you behind the eight ball but tonight you find new aims that can be very good for you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Think about what you can do to appear an outside who is upset instead of adding fuel to the flames of discontentment, later do what you agreed in a progressive manner.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Be sure not to get in a hassle in the morning with a fellow associate for later you find that a partner will go along with an unusual wish of importance to you.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You want to commit yourself

to some pleasure in the that is unwise to curb the while tonight adapting to your job helps very.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) At home all day, you are not to get away from them you will find some to find some outlets to bring you into SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You are apt to communication angrily off until you are in a better, and instead concentrate on make your current aim further.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You need doing anything about you at all in the daytime, spend the day and evening eliminating former mistakes.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) You are in good luck now but only for then you will be able to clearly what you can do, prove, modernize your.

AQUARIUS: (January 20 to February 19) A secret worry, a disappointment in the if you permit and instead time concentrating on appearance and activities.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Consider well the words of a personal assure you but do nothing about while you get ways to have anxiety right.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Heri



"How can you say I'm not romantic? emptied the litter box for you!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

WICTE

MAUHN

ERVEWS

TOENED

Answer: WICTE, MAUHN, ERVEWS, TOENED

Yesterday's Jumbles: LOUSE, HONOR, CUPFUL, SUGGLE

Answer: How a magician draws away your focus — BY HOCUS FOCUS

THE Daily Crossword by Dorothy B. Martin

ACROSS

1 Mild exclamation

2 Flagrant

3 Designate

4 Is inclusive

5 Confederate signature

6 Clock face

7 Leave out

8 One from another

9 Author's paraphrase?

10 Adolescent

11 Obsolete

12 Indolence

13 Serpent

14 Public coverage

15 Alumnus, for short

16 Harass

17 Not one

18 Explorer

19 Hernandez De

20 Town near Padua

21 Resap

22 Eastern

23 Norwician king

24 Peon

25 More drunched

26 Indolence

27 Serpent

28 Public recess

29 Address Messay

30 Graph

31 Potter players

32 Vendor

33 Chili con

34 Departures at sea

35 Leg-o'-mutton, e.g.

36 Roustabout

37 Routine task

38 Call attention

39 Send out



ALL HE LEFT WAS AN OLD-FASHIONED CLOCK, SO IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG TO DO THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: UP HIS

Answers to the

Yesterday's Puzzle Solver

1. BIRD

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Financial Markets

Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Date: 7.12.1992	London Date: 8.12.1992
Sterling Pound	1.9975	1.9977
Deutsche Mark	1.9405	1.9477
Swiss Franc	1.9195	1.9468
French Franc	5.3415	5.3295
Japanese Yen	125.81	125.85
European Currency Unit	1.2631	1.2646

European Currency Unit

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	3.00	5.81	5.81	5.12
Sterling Pound	7.25	7.10	6.68	6.62
Deutsche Mark	4.18	4.01	3.97	3.75
Swiss Franc	6.18	6.06	5.95	5.75
French Franc	10.25	10.12	9.62	9.75
Japanese Yen	5.01	5.02	5.02	5.05
European Currency Unit	10.81	10.76	9.87	9.16

Gold

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	336.20	6.51	Silver	5.78	1.01

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6840	0.6870
Sterling Pound	1.0962	1.0977
Deutsche Mark	0.4995	0.4988
Swiss Franc	0.4911	0.4936
French Franc	0.1250	0.1258
Japanese Yen	0.0027	0.0028
Dutch Guilder	0.3915	0.3935
Swedish Krona	0.1028	0.1035
Italian Lira	0.0049	0.0050
Belgian Franc	0.0210	0.0212

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7950	1.8150
Lebanese Lira	0.0350	0.0388
Saudi Riyal	0.1824	0.1836
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2800	2.3000
Qatari Riyal	0.1853	0.1867
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7550	1.7750
UAE Dirham	0.1853	0.1867
Greek Drachma	0.3235	0.3350
Cypriot Pound	1.4700	1.4910

CAR Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	6.12.1992 Close	7.12.1992 Close
All-Share	167.02	167.30
Banking Sector	120.43	120.11
Insurance Sector	184.08	185.78
Industry Sector	228.67	229.75
Services Sector	238.11	237.52

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for trading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.5950/60	U.S. dollars	1.2710/15
One U.S. dollar	1.5598/608	Canadian dollar	1.7525/45
	1.3985/95	Deutsche marks	32.11/15
	5.3215/65	Dutch guilders	1374/1377
	123.84/89	Swiss francs	6.7165/265
	6.3800/900	Belgian francs	6.0500/600
	6.0500/600	French francs	
		Italian lire	
		Japanese yen	
		Swedish crowns	
		Norwegian crowns	
		Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	\$334.75/335.25		

Ministry of Water and Irrigation needs financial pool to avoid running dry

By Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Ministry of Water and Irrigation is still capable of maintaining Jordanians afloat on a limited, yet declining, amount of water but the ministry is running dry as world financial resources are not pumping enough liquidity to help the ministry achieve better water security for the Kingdom.

Water and Irrigation Minister Samir Kavar told the fourth economic forum, organized by the Jordanian Businessmen Association Monday night, that the ministry had posted an overall JD 42 million loss last year as its expenditures outstripped the earnings in all areas.

The minister, who did not elaborate, said that the problems of his ministry arose from the population growth, lack of public awareness of Jordan's limited water resources, water pollution and the Kingdom's loss of a high percentage of its regional water rights.

Mr. Kavar mentioned the ministry's inability to secure enough foreign and local financing as another important hindrance to saving water costs through renewing Amman's water distribution network, building dams and improving water treatment installations.

Mr. Kavar made clear that due to political, social and financial factors it was neither possible nor feasible to embark on desalination projects or to carry out schemes to obtain water from neighbouring Arab countries.

He did not make any prediction on how a peace agreement with Israeli would change Jordan's water situation, but noted that water issues have always been a cause of conflicts in our region and that Jordan manages its water situation nowadays at crisis-management levels.

Jordan, he said, is characterized as a dry and semi-dry country, dependent mainly on rain water, 85 per cent of which gets lost through evaporation. Five per cent replenishes underground water basins and the rest gets wasted in creeks and valleys.

The minister explained that although Jordan received 13,100 million cubic metres (MCM) of rain last year, the average yearly amount is 8,500 cubic metres.

Mr. Kavar revealed that in 1991 Jordanians consumed 833 MCM from surface and underground water, the main two resources; 178 MCM went for drinking purposes, 42 MCM for industrial usage and 613 MCM for irrigation requirements.

The Ministry of Water and Irrigation estimates that surface water, which accumulates from running water in valleys, springs and floods, averages about 692 MCM, of which 321 MCM were consumed in 1991. Mr. Kavar said that 31 per cent of the available surface water came from the Yarmouk River and other sources from wadis (valleys).

The minister said that the 1991-1992 winter season had exposed the lack of adequate dams. The existing ones only have a capacity of collecting 110 MCM of rain water. King Talal Dam and Wadi Al Arab Dam could not absorb the heavy rain water of last year.

A good water source could have come from Al Wahdah dam had the Israelis not frightened international financiers from funding the project which could have added 120 MCM to Jordan's water resources, the minister added.

He said that the ministry would be working on other dams, such as Al Karamah, Al Moujeb, Al Waleh, Al Tannour and Wadi Al Jirdan, to collect the largest possible amount of surface water.

According to the ministry figures, a total of 512 MCM were extracted from underground resources in 1991; 65 MCM were taken from non-renewable basins, the most important of which is Al Dissi water basin in the south, and 447 MCM were taken from renewable resources.

Mr. Kavar told the audience that pumping water from renewable underground basins was far above the safety level of 275 MCM a year and, as such, the ministry was intensifying its supervision to ensure that water extraction from these basins remained under authorised drilling only.

Treated waste water amounted to 37 MCM in 1991 but the amount is expected to rise to 66 MCM by the year 2005.

He explained that 55 per cent of the country's population was benefiting from sewerage facilities and that waste water was treated at 14 plants. Treated water, the minister pointed out, constitutes six per cent of the water used for irrigation.

The largest amount of water is consumed by irrigation with a total of 613 MCM used for that purpose in 1991. The amount, representing 75 per cent of the total water consumption in Jordan, irrigated 640,000 dunums, 335,000 of which were in the Jordan Valley and southern Ghor area.

The minister mentioned that Jordan's total water consumption in 1991 was 883 MCM but he expected demand to rise to 1,638 MCM in the year 2005.

He predicted that in the year 2005 demand for household water would be an annual 426 MCM, industry demand would be 124 MCM and irrigation needs would rise to 1,088 MCM.

Mr. Kavar said that each individual used an average 208 cubic metres a year of the total water consumption in 1991.

Due to population growth, he added, the average per individual would drop to only 170 cubic metres a year in the year 2005 if additional water resources are not developed.

"The internationally acceptable water consumption average per individual is between 1,000-2,000 cubic metres a year," the minister pointed out.

The water distribution network covers 97 per cent of the Kingdom's four million population. Mr. Kavar said, adding that household water consumption amounted to 179 MCM in 1991, or 21.5 per cent of the Kingdom's total water consumption.

"By 2005, when the population would rise to some 6.2 million, household water consumption would rise to 426 MCM... meaning that Jordan should double its water extraction every 20 years to meet public demand," Mr. Kavar said.

Noting that the lowest internationally-accepted level of water consumption for each person is 100 cubic metres a year, the minister said the level per person from Jordan was only 45 cubic metres.

"When taking into consideration that 30 per cent of household water gets lost in the distribution network, then the average per person is even less than 45 cubic metres a year," he explained.

"This situation," the minister stressed, "has forced us to plan a wide-range programme to renew the water distribution network during the 5-year 1993-1998 development plan, taking into consideration that there are 479,000 household subscribers, 44 per cent of whom live in Amman."

The industrial sector's water consumption amounted to 42 MCM in 1991 and the minister predicted a rise to 125 MCM by the year 2005.

He explained that although the phosphate, potash and fertiliser plants, the oil refinery and Al Hussein Thermal Power Station were the main industries to use water, it was imperative on all others to conserve water, recycle waste water after treatment and consider water usage as an industrial input and not as a free source of the industrialisation process.

The figures which the minister gave clearly show that the ministry operates at a total loss.

The ministry earned JD 18.5 million in 1991 from households,

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

MARKET INDEX

COMPANY NAME	TRADING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
JORDAN BANK	10.00	10.00	10.00
JORDAN COMMERCIAL BANK	10.00	10.00	10.00
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	10.00	10.00	10.00
JORDAN POSTAL BANK	10.00	10.00	10.00
JORDAN SAVING BANK	10.00	10.00	10.00
JORDAN TRADING BANK	10.00	10.00	10.00
JORDAN DEVELOPMENT BANK	10.00	10.00	10.00
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL BANK	10.00	10.00	10.00
JORDAN AGRICULTURAL BANK	10.00	10.00	10.00
JORDAN MINING BANK	10.00	10.00	10.00
JORDAN PETROLEUM BANK	10.00	10.00	10.00
JORDAN TOURISM BANK	10.00	10.00	10.00
JORDAN EDUCATION BANK	10.00	10.00	10.00
JORDAN HEALTH BANK	10.00	10.00	10.00
JORDAN CULTURE BANK	10.00	10.00	10.00
JORDAN ARTS BANK	10.00	10.00	10.00
JORDAN SCIENCE BANK	10.00	10.00	10.00
JORDAN TECHNOLOGY BANK	10.00	10.00	10.00
JORDAN INNOVATION BANK	10.00	10.00	10.00
JORDAN RESEARCH BANK	10.00	10.00	10.00
JORDAN DEVELOPMENT BANK	10.00	10.00	10.00
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	10.00	10.00	10.00
JORDAN COMMERCIAL BANK	10.00	10.00	10.00
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL BANK	10.00	10.00	10.00
JORDAN AGRICULTURAL BANK	10.00	10.00	10.00
JORDAN MINING BANK	10.00	10.00	10.00
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JORDAN SCIENCE BANK	10.00	10.00	10.00
JORDAN TECHNOLOGY BANK	10.00	10.00	10.00
JORDAN INNOVATION BANK	10.00	10.00	10.00
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200 fleeing Tajik refugees drown

GENEVA (Agencies) — About 200 refugees fleeing Tajikistan for Afghanistan are believed to have drowned crossing the Amu Darya River on the frontier, the U.N. said Tuesday.

About 5,000 refugees of an estimated 62,000 massed at the border crossed the river Sunday, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

They told relief officials upon their arrival in Afghanistan of having been attacked by helicopters, spokeswoman Sylvana Foa told a news briefing.

In interviews with UNHCR delegates in northern Afghanistan, 16 refugees told of having been "attacked by helicopters," Ms. Foa said, adding: "They are cold, hungry and in pretty bad shape."

No more details were available from the Geneva-based humanitarian agency.

Tajikistan, among the poorest of the 15 former Soviet republics, has been hit by fighting for months, and political authority has collapsed.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) says the virtual civil war between clans and political factions has displaced one in 10 of the five million population of Tajikistan.

Meanwhile, Islamic guerrillas threw up barricades in central streets of Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe Tuesday, using fallen trees, cars and lorries, witnesses said.

"We can hear artillery fire coming from the western approaches to the city," said one Dushanbe resident, contacted by telephone from Tashkent, capital of neighbouring Uzbekistan.

The guerrillas, dressed in striped kaffans and armed with Kalashnikov rifles, were expecting an onslaught on the city by ex-Communist forces entrenched in the suburbs.

On Monday, bread rationing went into effect in the besieged capital, swollen with more than 110,000 refugees.

In other unrest around the former Soviet Union, Armenian fighters reported that they had rebuffed a two-day Azerbaijani attack on the Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, site of the bloody ethnic conflict in the former Soviet Union.

The Armenians said they killed 150 Azerbaijani soldiers, destroyed five tanks and downed a helicopter and a SU 25 attack jet, according to ITAR-TASS. The report could not be independently confirmed.

In a separate development, Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze said Monday that Georgia was preparing a major offensive after peaceful attempts to settle the conflict with separatist Abkhazia failed.

"We must resolve the Abkhazia conflict by military means," the former Soviet foreign minister said on Georgian radio.

"It was very hard for me to come to this conclusion, because my position of conciliation and compromise is well known... but unfortunately, all chances for a peaceful settlement in Abkhazia have been exhausted," he said.

Mr. Shevardnadze spoke after Georgian troops shelled separatist positions along the Gumista River, and Abkhazians fired on the Georgian-held resort of Sukhumi.

Three civilians were killed Sunday by the artillery fire on Sukhumi, the ITAR-TASS News Agency reported. Four more died Monday when an unmarked aircraft bombed a new residential area of the seaside city, hitting a 16-story apartment building, according to Georgian officials and the Kavkazinform News Agency.

Rebels in Abkhazia, a picturesque region along the Black Sea in western Georgia, have been battling Georgian troops since mid-August. Scores of people have been killed, and thousands of refugees have fled to neighbouring areas of the Caucasus mountains.

Mr. Shevardnadze sent troops into the region on Aug. 13 to root out supporters of ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia. Abkhazian leaders said the troops were dispatched to crush their independence campaign, and they organised popular resistance.

Mr. Shevardnadze Monday promised that after Georgia suppressed the separatists, it would hold free elections and provide "real autonomy" for Abkhazia, as long as it remains a province of Georgia.

Noting that Georgia now has a "professional military," Mr. Shevardnadze said, "I have come to the conclusion that we must finish the 'Abkhazian conflict in the shortest way possible, even if it is hard."

Ethnic Abkhazians are a minority in their region, which has a total population of about 500,000, including many ethnic Georgians, Armenians and Russians.

Yeltsin proposes Gaidar, offers political concessions

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin Monday offered Russia's parliament control over key foreign and security ministers in a bid to get his radical protégé Yegor Gaidar installed as full prime minister.

Mr. Yeltsin, fighting to keep economic reform on track, called on a hostile Congress of People's Deputies to overcome its opposition to Acting Prime Minister Gaidar and confirm him in office.

"With a full sense of responsibility, at a critical time for Russia, I propose Yegor Gaidar as prime minister... for the whole world this would be the guarantee of Russia moving forward along the path of reform," Mr. Yeltsin said.

Clearly desperate to win support of the supreme legislature against the odds, Mr. Yeltsin first offered a power-sharing deal under which the Supreme Soviet — the standing parliament — would have the right of veto over four ministers.

These were the foreign, defence, security and interior ministers.

Giving parliament the right of veto over the foreign minister placed a question mark over the future of the present incumbent, Andrei Kozyrev, who has been sharply criticised by powerful conservatives in the Supreme Soviet for taking too pro-Western a policy line.

Mr. Yeltsin, in the run-up to the opening of the congress on Dec. 1, said he would not sacrifice Mr. Kozyrev, a liberal career diplomat appointed in 1990, in any political trade-off.

His concession on that score underlined the scale of opposition pressure exerted on him at the congress and reflected the fear that economic policy would unravel if Mr. Gaidar was forced out.

Mr. Gaidar's reappointment has become a key test of Mr. Yeltsin's ability to impose his will on the 1,040-member congress which is dominated by conservatives opposed to his "shock therapy" reforms.

His rejection would deal a blow to Mr. Yeltsin's authority at home and to the West.

The 36-year-old Gaidar remained plunged in thought, his head on his chest, as he heard his patron describe him as "courageous, brave, devoted to his cause and... just smart."

The latter remark drew hollow laughter from more sceptical conservative deputies.

Mr. Yeltsin said his nomination of Mr. Gaidar was based on the belief "that what the country needs today is not another outbreak of confrontation in the highest echelon of power, but stability."

Deputies were to make a final decision on Mr. Gaidar's fate Wednesday.

Mr. Yeltsin came up with his power-sharing deal after a heated early morning meeting with faction leaders.

Privatisation Minister Anatoly Chubais, a leading light in Mr.

Gaidar's young team, said Monday night that virtually all key economic ministers would quit if Mr. Gaidar fell.

It was impossible to say whether Mr. Gaidar would garner the 521 votes necessary for endorsement given the unpredictable nature of the congress which has a body of about 200 deputies of no fixed political loyalties known as "the swamp."

At the weekend Mr. Yeltsin narrowly avoided defeat when the opposition came within four votes of getting a two-thirds majority on the issue of presidential control over government appointments.

Pyotr Aven, minister for foreign economic ties and another key player in the Gaidar team, expressed confidence at the outcome.

He told reporters: "I think the economic part of the government will remain intact after the congress. The president has extremely good political intuition and I rely on it."

Ilya Konstantinov, a deputy of the hardline National Salvation Front, said flatly: "Gaidar will not get through."

Sergei Baburin, a leader of the Russian Unity faction of ex-Communists, said he would press for parliamentary control over the ministries of finance and economy in addition to the four named by Mr. Yeltsin.

Mr. Gaidar is rejected by parliament, Mr. Yeltsin could retain him as acting premier until the next congress in April.

The fighting, the most serious in weeks, seemed to be out of control as the U.N. peacekeepers, who approached the Serbs to ask them to stop fighting, said they were forced to withdraw under fire.

French Colonel Armel Vout of the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) described the situation as "very serious."

He said: "We are supposed to have free movement along that road. We have asked them to stop the fighting."

The road to the airport is a vital conduit for U.N. peacekeeping operations and aid into the city. A thick layer of smoke hung over the entire area.

To Goevea, a U.N. official said the international airlift of urgent food supplies, set to resume

Wednesday, would probably be delayed due to the fighting around the airport.

Technical talks between the five states involved in the airlift — Britain, Canada, France, Germany and the United States — and UNHCR officials on its resumption were scheduled for Tuesday in the Bosnian capital.

But Ms. Foa said: "All our staff are in bunkers. The airport has already taken several rounds of shooting."

Four antennae of the airport radar system have been damaged in the shelling and need repair, she added.

The flare-up in fighting came only hours after Bosnian Serbs and Muslims achieved agreement to ensure safety of UNHCR and UNPROFOR flights to and from the airport.

The fighting shattered hopes, raised by a lull earlier in the morning, that the Bosnian rivals might make most of a fresh attempt by international mediators in Geneva to negotiate

a peaceful settlement to the bloodshed.

At the start of their three-day separate talks with co-chairmen of the international conference on former Yugoslavia, the leaders of Bosnia's three warring sides presented maps setting out their plans for a peacetime Bosnia.

But diplomats and the Bosnian themselves said fierce battles around Sarajevo — and vastly differing conceptions of how Bosnia should end up looking — were seriously hampering the Geneva peace process.

"The combination of (Serb) firepower and winter conditions is making this conference increasingly irrelevant," Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic, representing Bosnia's Muslim-led government, told Reuters.

A U.N. aid convoy carrying basic food from Belgrade to the Muslim town of Gorazde, was stopped at Zvornik, some 150 kilometres north of its destination, by local Serbs who said they had not been informed of its arrival, a UNHCR spokeswoman said.

The Bosnian army confirmed Tuesday that its offensive against Serb positions on Trebevi Mountain overlooking the capital Monday had ended in defeat.

Bosnian Radio reported heavy shelling of the Sarajevo districts of Dobrinja, Stari Grad, Vogosca and Zuc and fierce infantry and artillery battles in most of northern Bosnia.



Militia officers stand ready as pro-Communist demonstrators shout slogans against Russian President Boris Yeltsin while deputies walk to the Kremlin (AFP photo)

Fierce fighting seals off Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (R) — Fierce fighting broke out in Sarajevo Tuesday, effectively cutting it off from the outside world after Serb tanks closed the main road leading to the airport, U.N. peacekeepers said.

They said fierce clashes between Serbs and Muslims were continuing along the airport road and on the only other route into the capital from Serb-held Dridza.

French peacekeepers said at least two Serb tanks on the airport road had fired some 20 rounds into the Dobrinja suburb. The local clinic reported some 40 people, civilians and soldiers, wounded in the morning's onslaught.

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Women-only trains highly popular

SEOUL (AP) — Afraid male passengers, a large number of female are taking advantage of "women-only coaches" introduced on Seoul area train.

Officials said Monday that 97 per cent of the women-only coaches were filled in those coaches' first day in service.

On the women-only coaches, the first day in service, about 70 per cent of the women-only coaches were filled.

Despite the only designation, there is a ban on men using those coaches, the railroad said.

The railroad designated two train's 10 coaches for passengers, only after complaints about men's fondling women in rush hour trains.

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WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Results show split in Slovenia assembly

LJUBLJANA (R) — Final unofficial results of Slovenia's first national elections released Monday showed that at least seven parties have won seats in the former Yugoslav republic's new National Assembly. The Liberal Democratic Party, which currently controls parliament, had 23.3 per cent of votes. The rival, right-of-centre Christian Democrats had 14.5 per cent and the United List, led by the former Communist Social Democratic Renewal Party had 13.6 per cent. The ultra right-wing Slovenian National Party, which espouses strong nationalism, had nearly 9.9 per cent of votes, the Slovenian People's Party, also strongly right-wing, had nearly 8.8 per cent and the Democratic Party, which has a strong influence in the current government, had just over five per cent. The Green Party just squeaked into the parliament with 3.7 per cent of votes.

Ghali proposes U.N. force for Mozambique

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has proposed the establishment of a big new U.N. peacekeeping operation, involving about 7,500 troops, police and civilians, to help monitor an agreement ending a devastating civil war in Mozambique. The force, requiring Security Council approval, would be called the U.N. Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ). The United Nations has already launched major peacekeeping missions this year in Yugoslavia, Cambodia and Somalia, in addition to maintaining nine existing operations in such places as Lebanon, Cyprus, El Salvador and on the Iraq-Kuwait border. ONUMOZ would help oversee an accord signed in Rome on Oct. 4 between the formerly Marxist government of President Joaquim Chissano and rebels of the Mozambique National Resistance (RENAMO), led by Afonso Dalakana.

Republicans map challenge to Clinton

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans in the House of Representatives have put a more combative stamp on their leadership team, narrowly electing a conservative economist to replace a moderate as the No. 3 party official. As both parties convened to elect their leaders for the coming two years, Republican members chose Texas Rep. Richard Armey over incumbent Californian Jerry Lewis to chair the House Republican Conference, the organisation of all Republican members. The vote was 88 to 84. "Compromise is not going to be in the vocabulary," in the session of Congress that begins on Jan. 5, complained Rep. Sherwood Boehlert of New York, a member of the party's shrinking moderate wing. Incumbents won easily for the rest of the top posts in both parties: House Speaker Thomas Foley, D-Wash., majority leader Richard Gephardt, D-MV., and majority whip David Bonior, D-Mich., were returned without opposition. Minority leader Bob Michel of Illinois and GOP whip Newt Gingrich of Georgia also won by acclamation.

16 die as buses collide in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (R) — Sixteen people were killed and 22 injured when two mini-buses collided in Pakistan's Punjab province Monday, the Pakistan News Agency (PAA) said. It blamed the head-on collision near the central Punjab town of Jhang on speeding.

